STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of Policy & Government Relations Herman Stockinger, Director 4201 East Arkansas Avenue, Room 275

4201 East Arkansas Avenue, Room 275 Denver, Colorado 80222 (303) 757-9772



DATE: January 31, 2014

TO: Transportation Commissioners, Executive Director, Senior Management Team

FROM: Office of Policy & Government Relations

RE: Weekly Legislative Report – 2014 Session of the Colorado General Assembly

Today marks day 24 of the legislative session; 96 days remain until the General Assembly adjourns. At this point, 353 bills and resolutions have been introduced. The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is monitoring approximately 55 bills with impacts to transportation law, the department, and its employees.

Legislative Agenda Items

House Bill 14-1188 (Use of Outdoor Advertising Program Revenues). House Bill 14-188 is a department bill that was introduced this week. CDOT administers an outdoor advertising program under which it issues permits for advertising devices that are visible from state highways. To comply with a recent performance audit recommendation to improve the program, the bill establishes a new cost recovery center within CDOT's budget so that program expenses and revenue may be better tracked and analyzed in future audit reports. The bill was unanimously approved earlier this month by the Legislative Audit Committee, and now awaits a hearing by the House Transportation & Energy Committee.

Senate Bill 14-060 (Training for Flagpersons). Senate Bill 14-060, another department bill, was heard on Tuesday on Second Reading before the full Senate. The measure clarifies the authority of CDOT to provide flagperson training. On Wednesday the bill was approved on final passage by a vote of 32 to 2. The measure now moves forward for consideration by the House of Representatives next week.

Other Legislation

Senate Bill 14-044 (Senior Motor Vehicle Registration Tax & Fees). As introduced, Senate Bill 14-044 would allow significantly reduced vehicle taxes and fees paid by vehicle owners over age 65. Specific to CDOT, the bill would have reduced all FASTER vehicle registration fees to a flat \$50. As a result, the bill was estimated to reduce Colorado transportation funding by \$12 million annually, sixty percent of which is credited to CDOT and the remainder to cities and counties. This week the bill was heard by the Senate Committee on State, Veterans, & Military Affairs. CDOT provided testimony on the bill's negative impact to transportation funding and discussed ongoing budget challenges faced by the department. The bill was postponed indefinitely on a 5 to 0 vote.

HB 14-1132 (*Hours Alcohol Sales On-premises Consumption*). House Bill 14-1132 would allow local governments to set hours during which bars may stay open to the public and serve alcoholic beverages. The bill is in reaction to criminal and disorderly conduct associated with the Denver Lower Downtown bars after the 2:00 AM closing hour. CDOT continues to monitor the bill for impacts to impaired driving programs. After a lengthy hearing, the bill was approved and amended to allow bars to stay open no later than 4:30 AM, rather than 7:00 AM (as was provided in the original bill).

If you have any questions on these or any other legislative issues please contact the Office of Policy & Government Relations at (303) 757-9077. This memo and a link to the bill tracking chart are available online at: http://www.coloradodot.info/about/governmentrelations/state-government-liason.